

GRAUSTARK

152

1967V

9 February 1968

1967V

"Fall 1906"

TURKS TAKE NAPLES IN GREAT BATTLE!

ENGLAND (Lebling): F Hol-North Sea; F Norwegian Sea S F Hol-North Sea; F Hel S FRENCH A Kie; F Bar-St.P.

FRANCE (Prosnitz): F North Sea-Den; A Bur-Mun; A Kie S A Bur-Mun; A Pie-Ven; F Tyr-Tus; F Tun-Ion; F Mid-Wes.

GERMANY (M. Thomson): No moves received. F Den, F Ber, A Norway, A Swe, & A Mun hold.

ITALY (Griffin): A Rom-Apu; F Nap-Apu.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (H. Anderson): A Mos S TURKISH A St.P; A Boh S GERMAN A Mun; A Tyr-Pie; A Ven S A Tyr-Pie; F Tri S A Ven; A Tus-Rom.

TURKEY (S. Heap): F Ion-Nap; A Apu S F Ion-Nap; F Adr S A Apu; F Aeg-Ion; F Gre & F Bas S F Aeg-Ion; A St.P S GERMAN A Norway.

Underlined moves are not possible. France retreats A Pie-Mar, F North Sea-Ska. The Italian fleet in Naples has no retreats, and is annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon. (4)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Mos, Rum, Ser, Tri,

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Kie, Par, Por, Spa,

Ven, Vie. (7)

Tun. (8)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Nap, StP,

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Mun, Nor, Swe, War. (6)

Sev, Smy. (8)

ITALY: Rom. (1)

France, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey may each builds one unit. (Germany could also build a new unit if a home supply center were open.) The deadline for these "Winter 1906" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 1968. Terry Kuch should submit stand-by "Spring 1907" moves for Germany.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

GRAUSTARK is published by John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218, U. S. A. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$1.00. Some back issues are available; see GRAUSTARK #151 for details. GRAUSTARK is the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, with almost five years of continuous publication. This is

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Stand-by players are still needed for the two news games, whose play begins in the next issue. If you want to play as a stand-by, send in \$3.50 and you will take over if anyone drops out. See GRAUSTARK #151 for details. In past GRAUSTARK games, every first stand-by and almost every second stand-by has got to play.

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Earl Thompson's new address is 2947½ Leeward, Los Angeles, Calif. 90005.

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Larry Peery writes that his 1966 support of William Penn Patrick was part of a ploy by California Democrats, to fish in the troubled

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

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THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT 0-0-HATE

Chapter XLV

The Praetorian guardsmen led Secret Agent 0-0-Hate and his teen-age assistant Burner into the presence of the Emperor Nero. 0-0-Hate, who in civilian life is Clark Gussel, mild-mannered comic book collector, wondered again at the malfunction of the matter transmitter which had landed them in Rome more than 1900 years too early.

Nero, clad in a white toge bordered with pink and stained with wine, lay sprawl on a couch. Two beautiful women attended him; the younger washed his feet with perfume while the elder ran her fingers through his thinning hair. Nearby stood a handsome, pouting boy with a fan.

"Do you comically attired strangers speak Greek?" he asked them.

"Yes," both the agents replied.

"Marvellous! I hate this barbarous Latin, but I've always been fond of Greek customs. Everyone says that I'm really a Greek, fundamentally. And you should have heard them applaud me on my last tour of Greece! What a thrill! Everyone in that huge crowd applauded when I sang - except, of course, the thousand men of my personal bodyguard. They couldn't very well applaud with their swords drawn. But you could see by the grins on their faces that they liked me, too!"

"Your Imperial Majesty is a singer?" 0-0-Hate inquired.

"Oh, not just a singer, silly boy! Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus Caesar Augustus is a singer, a dancer, a gladiator, and the most accomplished tragedian in his empire. In fact, that's how I became Emperor."

"How did you do that?" Burner asked.

"After Mommy poisoned Daddy Claude, it was a choice between me and Cousin Britannicus. But I sang and danced and won the hearts of the people, so that when we poisoned Britannicus no one protested at all. The best way to come to the throne is, first to be an actor!" Grinning broadly, Nero tickled the woman at his head. She coyly slapped his wrist with a rolled manuscript.

"But now let's get down to business," he went on. "You are hereby charged with promoting war. What do you have to say for yourselves?" He paused. "My, this is fun, being a judge. I'm not surprised Daddy Claude did it so much."

"But don't do it in public, Nero dear," the older woman cautioned him.

"Certainly not, Mommykins. But at least we can throw him to the lions in public, after he's been found guilty."

"What if he's innocent?" the other woman spoke up.

"Shut your stupid face, Poppaea!" Nero snapped. "I don't know why I ever killed your husband and married you, anyhow. I think I just wanted to make Mommy jealous."

"And it worked, too!" his mother replied.

"One more wisecrack out of you, Mommy dear, and the roof will fall in on you," Nero warned. "Now, where was I?"

"These men are charged with being hellifists," the boy with the fan said.

"Oh, thank you, dear Sporus. Now - how do you plead?"

((What happens to our heroes at the hands of the bloodthirsty Nero? And why, if he is so bloodthirsty, doesn't he love war too? See the next installment.))

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BEAUCOUILLO - XVIII

During his long reign, King Louis XIV made many visits to the Grand Duchy, and was responsible for introducing many of its customs to the French court. In 1660 he and Charles II of England held a 34-day orgy in Beaucouillon to celebrate the latter's recall to his father's throne. (Charles won, 621 to 559.) In 1669 William Wycherley lost 55,000 ducats at roulette, and paid off the debt by writing three masques which are still performed regularly at Grand Ducal balls. In 1697, the diplomats of Europe celebrated the Peace of Rhyswyck, though a nasty incident occurred when the deposed James II of England lost 120,000 ducats at faro and tried to pay off with a draft on the Scottish treasury. Fortunately, Louis XIV guaranteed his debt, which meant that the

salt tax in three French provinces was collected by Beaucoillon for the next six years.

Flushed with this prosperity, Grand Duke Lorenzo VI celebrated the beginning of the 18th century with an orgy which lasted through all of the year 1700, then started all over again when the eminent mathematician Numeriano d'Avino pointed out that the new century didn't really begin until 1701. All in all, the orgy went through 15 months, four Grand Dukes, 13 million ducats, 1½ million gallons of wine, 315 paternity suits, and 29 fatal duels.

Fortunately for the Grand Ducal treasury, which had been seriously depleted by these expenditures, the War of the Spanish Succession broke out just after the end of the orgy. The resulting profit taken from the armies which marched and countermarched through that region for the next 12 years more than restored the tiny nation's finances.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

(continued from p. 1)

waters of the gubernatorial primary among Reagan, Christopher, and Patrick. He and his fellow-Californians have my sympathy. Patrick is a raving rightist, Christopher has a prison record, and Reagan we all know.

Still, we New Yorkers shouldn't complain. A couple of years ago there was a contest for a Democratic district leadership in Greenwich Village. One of the candidates was a corrupt old-line machine hack. The other was George Lincoln Rockwell's lawyer.

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This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

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Try this one out on your adding machine: Yesterday Marine Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak "defended today United States estimates of the number of enemy killed in the recent Communist attacks in Vietnam citiew." According to an AP report in the New York Times, "General Krulak said Vietnam war experience had shown that one weapon was captured for every four Communists killed. He said that 7,500 weapons had been recovered in the recent attacks, indicating, he said, about 25,000 Communists killed."

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A few copies of LEFTOVERS #2 have become available again. Since I am using a rather old mailing list for them, some copies have come back for lack of the addressees' present addresses. Anyone who wants a copy of this amateur publication of general comment should send a quarter. Copies of LEFTOVERS #3 are available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A future issue of LEFTOVERS will carry the results of the presidential poll ballot distributed a few weeks ago. If you did not receive copies of this ballot, please write for them. They are due on 1 March 1968.

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Phillip Heaton, 4736 Kenneth Ave., Carmichael, California 95608, would like information about Diplomacy and Diplomacy 'zines, particularly 'zines which carry variant games.

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GRAUSTARK #153 will appear on 17 February 1968. It will include the "Fall 1907" moves of 1967U, the "Winter 1906" builds of 1967V, and the "Spring 1901" moves of the two new games, whose numbers have not yet been assigned by Charles Wells.

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There have been a few changes among the publishers of postal Diplomacy bulletins in Seattle. As matters now stand, Efgiart is edited by Douglas Beyerlein, 3934 S. W. Southern, Seattle, Wash. 98116 and by Douglas Baker, 19633 S. E. 29th, Issaquah, Wash. 98027. The Lost Ones is edited by Stephen Hueston, P. O. Box 25, Zenith, Wash. 98073. Both 'zines are published by Hueston. Greg Long, publisher of Cerebral Nebula, now has no publishing facilities available, and the editors of Efgiart doubt that CN will appear again in the near future. Meanwhile, in Minnesota, the International Enquirer seems to be hung up again. Cliff Ollila, the new publisher, hasn't been heard from since the middle of November.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

MR. TERRY KUCH, Apt. 204, 1910 13th St. North, Arlington, Va. 22201: A suggestion for prevention of draws: If a 17-17 stalemate or draw develops, declare the winner that player who has a higher center-year total. In this way the player who has the lower total as the game draws to a close will make every effort to win, and will not "play it safe" and settle for a draw, a la Notre Dame's football team. This should be effective, even though I realize that center-year totals are not necessarily a valid measure of a player's skill. This rule should prevent 17-17 draws, so the rule would seldom have to be invoked.

((The first 17-17 draw in GRAUSTARK was 1965L. Under this rule, the winner would have been John Koning as Russia. In the other 17-17 draw, 1965Q, Koning as England would have been the winner. The other drawn games in GRAUSTARK were 1966R and 1966AA; applying this rule to them would have made Don Berman as France and James Latimer as Germany the respective winners.))

Regardless of what the laws state, I believe it is my right to advocate any position which is in the area of governmental policy. If I so choose, it is my right to advocate draft evasion, revolution, or bombing the Chinese. The line between advocacy and conspiracy, which you may be making, is exceedingly fine, and any prosecutor worth his salt could blur the distinction easily enough to get a conviction. Therefore I think that 'conspiracy' is as much a right as advocacy. It is inconsistent to defend the right to say what we believe, while not defending the right of our opponents to say what they think.

((No war was ever fought, that was not first advocated and planned.))

The constitutional question of the right to shout "fuck" in a crowded theater will be left as an exercise for the reader.

In regard to your ((sic)) appended to my spelling of the name of a certain Asian country, I think most language scholars would hold that Viet Nam ((sic)) is the preferred transliteration of the name, newspaper reporters notwithstanding.

((The spelling "Vietnam" is used by such varied authorities as the New York Times, the Encyclopedia International, The World Almanac, the World Radio TV Handbook, The Realist, the Communist Party (U. S. A.), Ted Mark, Mad, Newsweek, and Barry Goldwater.))

JOHN McCALLUM, "A" Quarters, S. E. S., Ralston, Alberta: Re your statement in GRAUSTARK, in the summary of one of the completed games, that no way has been found to combat dropping out of games, I have been toying with the idea that it might be a good idea to charge a \$10 fee, or some such, giving back \$7 of it, on completion of the game, to all who have stayed the course. Probably only GRAUSTARK and STAB have sufficiently high reputations to be able to get players under those conditions, but it might be worth a try.

MICHAEL CHIDERS, Buckner Hall, San Marcos, Texas 78666: I have noticed nothing in Big Brother recently about you or GRAUSTARK. I followed Charles' comments about your "cheating" in the Dippy game with a certain amount of consternation. I never for the life of me could understand why Charles was so upset over your playing two countries at once, even though one was played under a pseudonym...It would appear to me basically that anything goes in a Diplomacy game. I can understand, however, why it is necessary to require that people not submit moves for a country they are not playing; the confusion could be extreme and there would be more work required for the gamesmaster. It might be interesting to run a wide open game where anything goes sometime, just to see if the players would try to "cheat" and if so how well they could pull it off. An interesting experiment in human nature perhaps.

Rod keeps harping on the fact that he is only exercising his right to control the material that enters his mailbox, but does he really have this right? If so then how can one go about enforcing that right. Being on a great many different mailing lists, I receive a great quantity of "junk" mail. My only recourse until this time has been to file the ads in the thirteenth drawer. If I really do have the right to control what enters my mailbox, then I ought to be able to stop this sort of mail.

Hmmm. I can already hear screams of "not applicable", "impractical", and "stupid pervert". Such thoughts are obviously un-American.

JOHN BESHARA, Apt. 1021, 155 W. 68th St., New York, N. Y. 10023: How would you rule in this instance:

ITALY: A Ven-Tri

TURKEY: A Bud-Tri; A Ser S AUSTRO-

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Tri-Bud.

HUNGARIAN A Tri-Bud.

((Leaving aside the stupidity of the Turkish moves, I would rule that all these moves fail. The Italian and Turkish attacks into Trieste stand each other off, and thus both fail. But the Turkish army in Serbia cannot support an attack against another Turkish army in Budapest.))

ROD WALKER, 1611 Lowry Drive, Rantoul, Ill. 61866: I do not remember saying "Sukarno is, or was, a Chinese puppet". If I did, I would certainly retract the statement as a gross oversimplification. Bung favored the PKI unnecessarily, partly no doubt as a bolster to his waning power. But they were unable, through him, to stop the rise of the Indonesian nationalists. Hence, perhaps, their desperate move to destroy the independence of Indonesia. By acting thus, as I stated before, they precipitated a massacre, whether of Chinese by Indonesians or vice-versa. I therefore blame the massacre on Peking, because agents of Chinese imperialism precipitated those events and they should have known better. Of course, massacres are of little consequence to the leaders of modern China, as they have demonstrated against their own people and against the formerly autonomous people of Tibet. ((Tibet has been under Chinese suzerainty as far back as the records run. And the massacres are reported by our reliable friends on Taiwan.)) Your analogy with Nazi Germany is a wild exaggeration of the facts; the "Jewish conspiracy" was false on the face of it. The Chinese conspiracy to undermine the independence of the Southeast Asian nations and to restore the Middle Kingdom is a fact. The leopard does not change its spots, even if it goes Communist, and Imperial China still lives, albeit in rather loathsome proletarian fashion. That overseas Chinese, often innocent, suffer because of the machinations of their motherland is regrettable but, under the circumstances, it is inevitable.

((It is amazing how many people, who could not give the least credence to tales of an international conspiracy of Jews, Catholics, or Freemasons, accept identical fables about Communists or the "Yellow Peril". It's a strange sort of conspiracy whose victims are usually its own members, but part of the purpose of such conspiracy stories is to blame a massacre on its victims. And Communism is only about a century old; an ancient, shadowy, all-pervasive Yellow Peril makes a much better story.))

The Special Study Group's conclusions ((as unauthorizedly revealed by the Report from Iron Mountain)) are interesting and, it seems to me, partially valid. They are rather old stuff in that they represent a partial updating of Joseph Schumpeter's ideas on warrior societies. There is no question that certain combinations of social and economic factors will dispose some societies more toward wars than others. It is also true that some of these factors exist in this country - although less so than, say, in the 1920's when the American chemical industry was able to block Senate confirmation of the Geneva accords on use of poison gas. ((Who is blocking Senate ratification of the genocide convention?)) It is also true that war has a temporarily stimulating effect on the national economy and that peace tends temporarily to depress it. However, wars also create severe labor shortages, galloping inflation, and a nearly disastrous decline in consumer buying; and modern wars also create dangerous demands on capital because of constant retooling caused by continuous weapon development. After a war, the sudden resurgence of consumer buying more than makes up for the temporary economic slump, and in modern times we have other means of substituting for the economic stimulation of war. ((The Special Study Group noted this, but concluded that a WPA, a war on poverty, or a greater effort in space research, would arouse considerable opposition, and would not command the popular enthusiasm that war evokes. These alternatives were considered and rejected by the Group.)) This is true in both private and planned economies. I have seen very detailed and excellent studies which show quite nicely that a gradual, phased plan of disarmament will wreck no more havoc on our society and economy than a mild recession."

However, your quoting of the Special Study Group's report highlights exactly what I have been saying. World disarmament and monopoly of international force by the UN or a similar body is the only road to peace. ((I agree. Now what steps has the United States taken to put this solution into effect? None whatsoever.)) Why? Because there is in most nations a certain level of inertia against peace and a propensity toward war.

No nation can afford to give up the use of force unilaterally and unconditionally - its warlike neighbors would attack it. Therefore, disarmament is no simple, easy task. The war in Vietnam occurred precisely because other people resorted to force to settle a political dispute and, having committed ourselves to intervene if this sort of thing happened, the only honorable thing was to intervene.

((Captain Walker, meet Captain Falstaff: "Can honour set to a leg? no; or an arm? no; or take away the grief of a wound? no. Honour hath no skill in surgery, then? no. ...Who hath it? he that died o' Wednesday. Doth he feel it? no. Doth he hear it? no." Or, if you make more of honor than this, I might point out that the public faith of the United States of America is pledged to support the Geneva agreement whereby all Vietnam was to have been unified in 1956.))

By the way, isn't it amazing that our warlike, bloodthirsty President, whom you claim is just itching for any excuse, no matter how flimsy, to start a nice gory war didn't take the one North Korea served him on a silver platter. Isn't it equally amazing that, on the first day after the piratical seizure of the Pueblo on the High Seas, when there was a lot of war talk going around, the stock market declined, when all those war-lovers should have been buying like crazy? Sigh...how shattering for somebody's pet theories. But then, as I said, war is a political act, undertaken only when necessary, and not an aim of policy; and it would seem that war is not all that popular on Wall Street, either.

((Unfortunately for the President, his indignation about the seizure of the Pueblo "on the High Seas" came the same week as the disclosure, by the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, that the "Gulf of Tonkin incident" followed the penetration of North Vietnam's 12-mile limit by an American destroyer in 1964. Since we had been assured that the attack on the Maddox took place in international waters, we have every reason to doubt the same story about the Pueblo. All the plans for large-scale American action against Hanoi were already drawn up, and the appropriate congressional resolution drafted, before the Maddox incident. As a consequence, congressional leaders of both parties are asking for further details lest another con game be in the works. The President is beginning to find that, instead of uniting the country behind him, each alleged casus belli just makes people more suspicious of him. For details see Murray Kempton's column, New York Post, 24 January 1968, and a New York Times editorial on this subject 2 days later, as well as John Finney's article on the Maddox incident in that week's New Republic. As Kempton concludes: "On the Pueblo, I believe North Korea. I don't remember its having lied to me lately."))

By the way, barring a plot by P'yongyang, which I think unlikely, can you imagine the poor military commander at Tonsan when he was told what had happened? "You captured a WHAT??????!??!"

DAVE LEBLING, Box 2234, Burton House, 420 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass. 02139: Come on John! Your belief in Report from Iron Mountain does much to add credence to Walker's charge that you are "politically naive". The Report is an interesting work of semi-fiction with no connection to the Defense Department.

((Au contraire, the provenance of the Special Study Group report is explained in the book's preface. I suggest you re-read it. The SSG began its work in 1963, working for a research institute which in turn was operating on a Defense Department contract. So they were consultants to an independent contractor, rather than representatives of the Department itself. Technically, I suppose this is rather tenuous, but it is incorrect to state categorically that they had "no connection to the Defense Department."))

HARRY MANOOGAN, P. O. Box 769, Kankakee, Ill. 60901: If I have time will really try to track down the Svetlana history. What I want to get hold of is the account in Brassey's Naval Annual, or something equally authoritative - don't think too much of the various "popular" histories that abounded, such as John McCallum looked at. Not to knock John, and overall, Russian naval history is a bitch anyway, what with secrecy, translations, and mis-translations of names, changes in naval programs, governments, and so forth.

MARGARET GEMIGNANI, 4541 N. Ocean Dr., Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Fla. 33303: I have changed my mind I like O O Hate even if it is most unkind cut of all. That was nice of Chris is straight out the mix up in GRAUSTARK. Please don't put Directory of Unfamiliar Quotation - III on back. I don't want my mail man to read this. Do you know your

quotations on front & notes on back of your zine are going to get some nice people with poor repetition. It doesn't pay to advertise. If you don't stop this, I will have to ask you to mail GRAUSTARK in an envelope.

((I am quite touched by the care which you and Charles Reinsel have for the morals of the Post Office Department. Reinsel didn't want his mailman to read anti-war slogans on GRAUSTARK, and you don't want yours to read pro-war slogans. However, I regret to have to inform you that GRAUSTARK #150 went into the mail, complete with selected pro-war opinions on the outer wrapper, before this letter arrived. Your mailman is already hopelessly exposed. Don't be surprised if, the next you hear of him, he has invaded Cuba.))

...I always enjoy your limericks so I am not all bad.

Conan was gentleman by today's standard. His specialty wasn't raiding defenseless villages regularly.

((Didn't read "Queen of the Black Coast", did you?))

EUGENE PROSNITZ, 200 Clinton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201: I have to take issue with your criticism of Bob Ward in that recently completed game ((1966B)). As I recall the situation, you criticized him for helping one player win the game because another player had double-crossed him.

Now, as you know, I believe in the balance of power theory. (Except when I'm winning.) On some occasions I've sacrificed gains of supply centers, and a sure second place finish, to stop some one else from winning. (Ask Larry Peery.)

However, often one's self-preservation demands that he make it clear to potential double crossers that they will be severely penalized, to the best of the victim's ability. If I'm faced with what looks like an impending backstab, I warn my potential adversary that if he stabs me, and my cause looks hopeless, I'll throw everything I have at him, even if it means going down a little faster and even if it means giving a third party the victory. This has a deterrent effect.

((It didn't deter Marshall Badoglio!))

Naturally, in order for my warnings to be accepted as credible in the future, I have to carry out this threat in the event that I am doublecrossed.

...In answer to Bill Linden's latest letter, in GRAUSTARK #150:

First, I object to the charge that liberals don't criticize NLF atrocities. I was quite critical of the Dak So massacre, and consider it to be an outrageous, inhuman act. (I have to disagree with you here, John, I don't believe a story like this could have been a pure fabrication, after all dead bodies are pretty good evidence.)

(("It's inherent in Government's right, if necessary, to lie to save itself when it's going up into nuclear war. This to me seems basic." - Asst. Secretary of Defense Arthur Sylvester, 1962.)

((("If you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid. Did you hear that? - stupid!" - Sylvester, 1966.))

However, I strongly object to Linden's assertion that every criticism of American acts must be coupled with a criticism of the Communists. Let me present an analogy: If my wife cooks a bad dinner, I might criticize her for it. However, if I go to someone else's home and receive a bad dinner, it would be most impolite to criticize the hostess.

The point is, one should keep his own house in order first. It's easy to blindly agree with what your government does; the real patriot is the one who criticizes his government when it is in the wrong. We presumably can exercise some measure of influence over the activities of our government, but none over those of foreign countries.

Besides, two wrongs don't make a right, and NLF atrocities don't justify U. S. atrocities. We presumably oppose Communism because the U. S. has more civilized and humane methods of behavior. It always strikes me as ironic that the people who profess to be the staunchest anti-Communists usually want the United States to imitate the Communists' methods. Besides, atrocities committed in defending one's homeland from foreign invasion are less reprehensible than atrocities committed by troops invading a foreign land.

As for Indonesia: The equation with World War II is not valid. Let's leave aside Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which in my opinion were morally indefensible and unnecessary from a military standpoint. As a matter of fact, many competent historians, such as Alexander Werth, author of the definite work on the Russo-German war, feel that the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was motivated by political reasons, i. e. the desire to end the war at that moment, rather than wait even another week or month, because the Rus-

sians had just entered the Pacific war, or were just about to. (I'm not sure of the exact timetable here, but a long standing agreement was in existence to the effect that Russia would enter the war against Japan shortly after victory over Germany.) At any rate, these historians believe that the motive for dropping the bomb was to have the war end before Russia could establish a valid claim to more territory in that area; also another reason was to demonstrate this weapon to the Russians so that we would have more leverage in post-war diplomacy.

To return to the subject of Indonesia: The killing in World War II, when done by the allies, was, with a few isolated exceptions, part of a military campaign; the bombing was done for military purposes. It was a part of a full scale global war. By contrast, in Indonesia, the new government participated or acquiesced in the cold-blooded massacre of approximately 500,000 individuals, including many women and children and many people not even politically oriented. This did not happen in the course of a military campaign, for there was no war, civil or otherwise, fought at that time. It happened after the present government, the one which Johnson takes solace in, was already in power.

While I never held any brief for Sukarno, I don't think that a government which would butcher half a million of its citizens is much improvement. And if it is an improvement, it's not enough of an improvement to make it worth 500,000 deaths. In this regard, it's once again interesting to note that the people who profess to be the staunchest anti-communists share a common philosophy with the Communists; they, like the Communists, have little respect for human life.

For my part, I would rather see the 500,000 people still alive, even if it meant having the former government still in power.

GRAUSTARK #152

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F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

"But there must be a war - I've paid
a month's rent on the battlefield." -
R. T. Firefly, 1933.

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